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Missing man found dead in Minden Lake

Times Staff

The body of a Scarborough man who police had been searching for since declaring him missing on July 23 was pulled from Minden Lake on Sunday.

Haliburton Highlands OPP said a resident had found the body of 55-year-old Robert Smith near their dock on the north end of Minden Lake shortly before 5:30 p.m. on July 26.

Yesterday, Global News reported Smith to be a convicted sex offender, based on a source through the Toronto Police Service. When contacted by the *Minden Times*, TPS would not confirm those details.

Smith had been reported missing by the TPS on July 23 at 1:07 a.m. He had last been seen in the Minden area riding a red 1995 Harley Davidson motorcycle on July 22.

That motorcycle was located in an overflow parking lot off of Horseshoe Lake Road, according to local police who were called in to assist in the search at 4 p.m. on July 24. Acting OPP Staff Sergeant Jason Folz said Toronto Police had advised the local team that the motorcycle might be found there.

OPP members from the Central Region emergency response team, canine unit and aviation services searched that area, with additional resources from the underwater search and recovery unit and marine patrols joining on July 25.

Global News reported on July 28 that a source with the TPS had confirmed "Smith is the same individual who, in 2008, was sentenced to 20 months in prison and three years of probation after pleading guilty to possessing and distributing child pornography. Smith's arrest came following an

see DECEASED page 2



An OPP boat pulling two divers searches Horseshoe Lake for 55-year-old Robert Smith of Scarborough on the afternoon of Saturday, July 25. The man's body was discovered in Minden Lake by a resident there on the afternoon of Sunday, July 26. /Submitted by Doug Hall

Community safety plan conducted at county level

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

The following are brief reports of items discussed during a July 22 online meeting of Haliburton County council.

The provincial government has mandated that all municipalities in Ontario create what it's calling community safety and well-being plans, and in the County of Haliburton, it's been agreed to by its four, lower-tier municipal councils that a plan will be contracted

through the county, to serve the upper tier as well as the four lower tiers.

The county will strike a steering committee that will review a request for proposals document and approve a work plan. The process is being led by Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt, who chairs the county's community policing advisory committee, and has done significant research on what the plans are to entail.

It's expected the budget for the project will be \$75,000, with half the amount coming from the county, and other half split evenly between the four lower-tier municipalities.

see WETLAND page 2

Public, employees will need to mask-up in township buildings

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

The Township of Minden Hills is creating a non-medical mask or face covering policy that will apply to its employees, as well as members of the public, within municipal facilities.

Councillors discussed the creation of that policy during a special July 23 meeting, councillors participating in the meeting remotely using online conferencing platform Zoom, with it broadcast on YouTube.

As a report from township chief administra-

tive officer/clerk Trisha McKibbin indicated, as of July 13, the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge Health Unit gave instruction that the operators of any indoor public spaces or indoor businesses have a written policy in place regarding the requirement for visitors to wear non-medical face masks or face coverings, amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The draft policy for Minden Hills reads that all customers entering a municipal building are required to wear a non-medical mask or face covering; that all employees are required to wear a non-medical mask or face covering while working in a municipal building while interacting with the public; and that

see COUNCIL page 2

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Council to discuss revised mask policy

from page 1

employees and members of the public will be required to wear face masks, even if there is a Plexiglas barrier between them.

Further, the draft policy states that township employees will wear face masks or coverings while off-site when representing the township, and that in situations where it is difficult for employees to maintain physical distancing of two metres, it is recommended that face coverings be worn.

Exceptions, as suggested by the health unit, and included in the draft policy were: a child under the age of two years; a child under the age of five years, who cannot be persuaded to wear a mask; someone unable to remove their mask without assistance; someone “unable to wear a mask for medical reasons, such as but not limited to, respiratory disease, cognitive difficulties, and/or difficulties in hearing or processing information. No one is required to disclose a medical condition or reason why they are exempt from wearing a mask”; or someone who is “unable to wear a face covering for any religious reason.”

“Implementation of the policy will be enacted and enforced in ‘good faith’ and will be primarily used as a means to educate people on mask use in public spaces,” the draft policy read. “No one will be denied service if they can’t wear a mask.”

Councillor Jennifer Hughey wondered what constituted a religious reason, and if there were any details around that.

McKibbin explained the language had been taken directly from the health unit’s framework.

“We did not lay out within the policy any specific details of what that means, we did just leave it as a general requirement,” she said.

Councillor Bob Carter said he thought the policy needed to be amended in a few ways, including the denial of entry into municipal facilities for those without face masks, and removal of the religious exemption entirely.

“Unfortunately, the information or the guidance that we’re getting from the public health units seems to be influenced

by politics and social sciences, instead of research and medicine,” Carter said. “So we end up being left with a message that is both fragmented and muddled, and that the public can’t understand.”

Carter emphasized that a pandemic involving what can be a deadly virus is still happening, and that scientific research indicates face masks can help prevent its spread.

“All research shows that masks work,” he said. “Non-medical masks don’t necessarily protect you, they’re protecting the people that are around you.”

While there are some legitimate medical reasons people can’t wear face masks, Carter said they’re very rare.

“So, I agree there are some medical reasons, but there are very few medical reasons why somebody cannot wear a mask,” he said.

Carter especially took exception to the exemption for reasons of religion.

“... the religious reasons, in particular, they’re not science,” he said, adding that most major religions are actively promoting the use of face masks.

“This guidance is not consistent with public health units across Ontario,” he continued, adding that in other health unit jurisdictions, religious exemptions only apply when people are within religious buildings and partaking in religious ceremonies that require face masks to be removed.

“It’s not a general, hey, I’ve got a religious reason, I don’t have to wear a mask anywhere,” Carter said. “... What religion would say, go forth and act recklessly and harm your fellow human beings on the planet? You know, we don’t have religious exemptions for speeding, drunk driving, discharging firearms recklessly, so that’s completely ludicrous, as far as I’m concerned.”

“I would think that this policy should be altered to say that we’ll deny entry to anybody who’s not wearing a mask, and we will deal with those on an exceptional basis,” Carter said.

The majority of council seemed to agree with Carter’s suggestions, and a revised draft of the policy will come back to the council table.

Wetland mapping continues

from page 1

Councillors heard an update from Sheila Ziman and Paul Heaven of the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust about the organization’s improved wetlands mapping project, which is developing and testing a new, remote wetland mapping technique which provides more accurate data than previous mapping techniques, and can then be used for planning purposes.

The land trust used money from an Ontario Trillium Foundation SEED grant to do a test pilot project of the technique within the former townships of Lutterworth, Snowdon and Glamorgan, and based on successful results, intends to apply for further funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation for completion of the mapping throughout the rest of the county.

The land trust was seeking, and received, support from the county on its application for that funding.

Home lost to fire on Monday night

No injuries have been reported following a fire at a residence on Autumn Lane west of Haliburton on July 27.

Upon arrival at about 8:30 p.m., firefighters found the north end of the house was engulfed in flames. They were able to control the blaze to that part of the residence, but smoke and water damage was sustained throughout the building.

All residents exited the building safely and firefighters saved one pet. No one was injured, said fire chief Mike Iles.

The Dysart fire department sent seven trucks and 23 firefighters. They were joined by another three fire trucks and eight firefighters from Minden Hills.

Iles said Dysart firefighters returned to the station at 7:35 a.m. July 28.

Staff

Deceased reported as beer ad actor

from page 1

undercover police investigation in which police seized up to 1,000 graphic and sexual images of boys and girls under age 12.”

At that time, Smith was an actor best known for his role as a spokesperson for Alexander Keith’s beer, appearing in commercials as an over-the-top Scotsman.

Police searching for Smith said they were concerned for his safety. They did not disclose his criminal record, though the Times asked Toronto Police Service on July 24 and Haliburton Highlands OPP on July 26 to confirm the missing person was the same Smith associated with the previous crimes. On July 28, TPS confirmed that the Robert Smith who was missing

had been found dead, but repeated they would not comment on the man’s criminal history.

Folz said a post mortem examination will be scheduled at the Ontario Forensic Pathology Service in Toronto, but noted “it will be several months before any post-mortem results will be made available to investigators.” Investigators do not suspect foul play in this death investigation.

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County to apply for broadband funding

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

Haliburton County will apply for provincial funding for a project that would bring internet downloading/uploading speeds of 50 mbps/10 mbps to the area. A staff report from chief administrative officer Mike Rutter received by councillors during a July 22 meeting explained that the provincial government is offering \$150 million in grants through the Ministry of Infrastructure for broadband projects, and that applications must be done in partnership with telecom service providers.

"The federal government has also indicated that they will be announcing a grant program in the near future," the report reads. "We do not know if the provincial and federal programs will complement one another, or if one applicant could apply for funding from both."

The provincial program would pay for 25 per cent of a project, and it's estimated a project to outfit Haliburton County with 50 mbps/10 mbps speeds would cost \$55 million. That means provincial funding would cover \$13.75 million, and federal funding, if available, the same amount, leaving an esti-

mated \$27.5 million to the county and a partner telecom company. The staff report also laid out a tentative plan for borrowing over the period of decade to cover those costs.

The localized project would be separate from the Eastern Ontario Regional Network's cell gap project.

"We have been approached by two telecom service providers already, and it's possible that they would have some very interesting projects for our review," Rutter told councillors. His report also recommended the sole-sourced hiring of a consultant to conduct a technical evaluation of proposals and complete the application, with the deadline fast approaching near the end of August.

Councillors were unanimously supportive of moving ahead with the grant application, and with the sole-source procurement of a consultant.

"As we already know, that everybody [dealing] with COVID [protocols] has become extremely aware of connectivity needs, so the rush for consultants or people to help in the process, the longer we wait, the shallower pond we're going to be fishing in," said Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin.

MH approves video surveillance policy

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

Minden Hills councillors adopted a video surveillance policy for the township during a special July 23 online meeting, and a subsequent report will come back to the council table regarding specific locations for security cameras.

That policy is based on one passed by Haliburton County council in June, and during their meeting last week, Minden Hills councillors heard from county IT director Mike March.

"The IT department has been asked to assist with the implementation of a video surveillance system at the S.G. Nesbitt Arena," read a report from March. "Due to the threat of privacy breaches, improper use and collection of video, and the risk of liability associated with this type of surveillance, it is important that strong policies and procedures are in place before the township implements any video surveillance project. Therefore the director of IT has been asked to bring forward a draft video surveillance policy for council consideration."

In drafting the policy, March looked at pol-

icies in place in other municipalities. Its guiding principles include that data from cameras would be collected only when authorized by statute, required by law enforcement, "or when necessary to the proper administration of a lawfully authorized activity"; minimizing the amount of data that is collected; retaining data for no longer than it is required; using data only for the purpose for which is collected; taking all reasonable precautions to prevent unauthorized access to data; notifying individuals through signage that video surveillance is in use; and not disclosing data unless the disclosure is "with consent from the individuals whose personal information appears in the images; in response to a Freedom of Information request; or requested by law enforcement to aid in an investigation." March's report noted the policy had been reviewed by law firm Ewart O'Dwyer.

Councillor Bob Carter wondered what the cameras meant in terms of residents' reasonable right to privacy, and March said that if the township was required to submit a tape with a suspected criminal, say, then the tape would be edited in such a way as to protect the identities of those outside the suspect.

A report detailing possible locations for security cameras was scheduled to come before council at a July 30 meeting.

Kids cultivate kindness activity in Minden

by SUE TIFFIN
Times Staff

Last week, a group of cousins brought a fresh offer of colour and kindness to Minden.

"Our daughter, Kadyn, is very in tune with what is going on around her and the world," mom Kayla Gillooly told the *Minden Times*. "She wanted to do something nice for people. She had no one specific in mind, just wanted to make someone's day."

Meanwhile, Kadyn's cousin Lucas Shaw had told his mom the week prior that he wanted to participate in an act of kindness one day. The four kids – nine-year-old Kadyn Gillooly, five-year-old Kieran Gillooly, five-year-old Lucas Shaw and three-year-old Logan Shaw, discussed together a way in which they could help bring kindness during a trying time in history.

"They came up with many ideas including

giving out caterpillars so people could watch them turn into butterflies," said Kayla. "They ended up agreeing on handing out flowers, because flowers make people smile."

Northern HVAC Co., owned by Kayla and Kieran Gillooly, purchased 60 flowers from a local shop, and the kids wrapped each one with a tag that said, "Kindness is spreading sunshine in other people's lives regardless of the weather."

"The kids would walk up to anyone they saw, hand them a flower and [say], 'this is for you,'" said Kayla. When recipients asked what the gift was for, the kids replied with, "it's to make you smile."

"We like to say that the world is full of kind people, but if you can't find one, be one," said Kayla. She noted that it wouldn't be a surprise to see the kids out and about in the future, trying again to add a moment of kindness to people's days.



The four kids – nine-year-old Kadyn Gillooly, five-year-old Lucas Shaw, five-year-old Kieran Gillooly and three-year-old Logan Shaw, discussed together a way in which they could help bring kindness during a trying time in history. /Photos submitted by Kayla Gillooly



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COUNCIL MEETINGS

As a result of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak, all Council and Committee of the Whole meetings will be conducted virtually via web conference; and Closed Session meetings via teleconference, until further notice.

Meetings are held virtually, starting at 9:00 AM in the Minden Council office, 7 Milne Street.

The schedule of upcoming meetings are:

July 30 – Regular Council Meeting August 27 – Regular Council Meeting

Please note Council Meetings are reduced to one meeting a month in July, August and December.

During this unprecedented time, the health and safety of our community is of paramount importance. Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township website at www.mindenhills.ca/council/ or by using the direct link provided in the notice. We encourage those wishing to view the meeting to also download the agenda, as it will not be displayed during the streaming process. Meeting agendas can be downloaded by visiting our website at www.mindenhills.ca/council/.

Please note the live-stream link provided for each meeting will only be activated while Council is in session.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Minden Hills Cultural Centre is hiring! The MHCC is currently seeking summer students for the 2020 season, ending August 22. Duties include (but are not limited to): assisting with developing and delivering public programming, wearing time period clothing while demonstrating living history activities, public speaking while touring, working with the permanent collection, gardening and cleaning.

The rate of pay is \$14.00 per hour. Students must meet Young Canada Works (YCW) Eligibility Requirements.

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HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENT

The next Household Hazardous Waste collection event is Saturday, August 8, 2020 at the Scotch Line Landfill from 8am to 11:30am. Please visit mindenhills.ca/landfill for a list of accepted items.

COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT MEETING

The Committee of Adjustment hearing scheduled for Monday, July 27, 2020 has been cancelled.

Face mask mandate getting mixed reviews

by SUE TIFFIN
Times Staff

A mask mandate issued by the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit for July 13 has been met with positive and negative reviews from the public.

"Like all issues, we have seen mixed reactions," said Chandra Tremblay, spokesperson for the local health unit. "Some people have contacted us to let us know they appreciate the requirement, while others have told us in no uncertain terms that they do not agree."

Face masks are used to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 by blocking respiratory droplets from entering the air.

As of July 17, the HKPR District Health Unit region has moved into stage 3 of the province's reopening plan, which means more businesses are required to implement the mask rules. A longer list of establishments includes most indoor places where members of the public congregate including restaurants, churches, public libraries, casinos, museums and many others.

Business owners have been instructed by the health unit to have a policy requesting customers wear a mask or face covering, and to post signs reminding customers that masks should be worn while in the indoor establishment, but have also been instructed they can't turn away customers who cannot or do not wear a mask, nor should a business owner or other customer ask why someone can't wear a mask, in order to protect the person's privacy in the case of health or religious reasons.

Some business owners have cited confusion about their role in enforcing mask-wearing, and the potential for them to be fined



Businesses have been instructed by the HKPR Health Unit to create a policy asking customers to wear a mask or face covering when in their stores and to post signs in their windows as a reminder. Those who do not wear a mask are to be given verbal reminders, but businesses are not required to enforce the rule beyond that point. /SUE TIFFIN Staff

should they have a customer enter their business without a mask.

"If a customer comes to the business and is not wearing a mask or face covering, business owners are asked to use their 'best effort' to have them put on a mask," said Tremblay. "This means the customers should be given a verbal reminder about wearing a face mask or covering if they are not wearing a mask. If

a customer is seen removing their mask while in the business, the business owner or staff should provide a verbal reminder that customers should be wearing a face covering."

Tremblay said the health unit is working with local bylaw officers as well as police services to provide education about the instructions and the need for a policy and signage to local business owners.

“

Some people have contacted us to let us know they appreciate the requirement, while others have told us in no uncertain terms that they do not agree.

— CHANDRA TREMBLAY,
HKPR HEALTH UNIT

”

"If the situation arises that enforcement is needed, the health unit will work with its partners to issue a ticket," she said. "...Our staff are actively following up with businesses to review and provide education regarding the mask policy instructions. If, after repeated discussions, a business does not develop a policy or post signage, there may be a ticket levied against the business owner and not the individual staff who work there."

Last week, a new alert on the health unit website reminded site users that the health unit would take calls, but had zero tolerance for callers using profane, abusive or disrespectful language, noting that any such calls would not be responded to, and that calls that included threats would be reported to the police.

"Any public health program that requires enforcement is always met with mixed reac-

see page 5

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Public should not police mask-wearing, health unit says

from page 4

tion," said Tremblay. "Sometimes this reaction can be loud or include inappropriate language."

Signs at the health unit have long reminded members of the public that they will not be provided service if they speak to staff inappropriately or are being threatening. Now, the message has been added to the website, too.

"When a caller leaves an angry voicemail or sends an email full of inappropriate language, our staff have been directed to not follow up with the person," said Tremblay. "As a result, some of these people feel they have been ignored and that makes them angrier. The message on the website lets them know they will not be hearing back from the health unit if they use inappropriate language."

Tremblay said the health unit's #InThisTogether messaging has been genuine.

"We need to work together to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, but we also need to remember to be kind and compassionate with each other," said Tremblay. "No two people are experiencing the pandemic in the same way. For some, it's been very challenging emotionally, mentally and financially and we need to continue to work to help each other."

The health unit has heard that some people have felt threatened or stigmatized because they cannot wear a mask.

"This should not be happening," said Tremblay. "The health unit is not asking businesses to stop serving people who cannot wear a mask and it is not asking people to 'police' non-mask wearing people when they are out. It is asking for everyone to respect each other and do what they can to help protect themselves, their families and their community from the spread of the virus."

Exemptions for wearing a mask within commercial establishments include children under two, those with developmental disabilities who refuse to wear a mask, people who are

incapacitated or unable to remove a mask without assistance, or for other religious or medical reasons including respiratory disease, cognitive difficulties or difficulties in hearing or

processing information.

More information can be found at: www.hkpr.on.ca or call toll-free at 1-866-888-4577, ext. 5020.

Updated: July 27, 2020 – 3:55 pm

This is the cumulative data on confirmed COVID-19 cases in the HKPR District Health Unit area.

| | Haliburton | City of Kawartha Lakes | Northumberland | HKPRDHU |
|----------------------------------|------------|------------------------|----------------|---------|
| Confirmed Cases | 13 | 175 | 25 | 213 |
| Current Probable Cases+ | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Current High Risk Contacts+ | 5 | 2 | 4 | 11 |
| Hospitalizations (Total to Date) | 1 | 11 | 2 | 14 |
| Resolved** | 12 | 153 | 24 | 189 |
| Deaths | 0 | 32 | 0 | 32 |
| Current Outbreaks | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

As of July 27, there is one active case of COVID-19 in a Haliburton County resident, with 12 previous cases resolved. One current probable case, and five current high risk contacts, were also reported on July 27. Probable cases are individuals who are a symptomatic close contact of a confirmed case and whose lab results are not available or inconclusive and do not include outbreak-related cases in longterm care homes, while high-risk contacts are defined as asymptomatic individuals who are known to have been in contact with a confirmed or probable case. The hospitalization recorded on this chart is not current. This information is updated on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, excluding holidays. Positive COVID-19 tests conducted in Haliburton County on residents with a primary address outside of Haliburton County are recorded in the health unit of that address. /Screenshot from the HKPRDHU website at hkpr.on.ca.



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Monday 9 a.m.- 4 p.m., Tuesday to Friday 9 a.m.- noon
Letters to the Editor must be signed and include phone number. Unsigned letters will not be published. Email must include name and phone number. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.
All Subscriptions: \$46/ per year or \$88 for 2 years
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Right to privacy

WHILE HALIBURTON County went several weeks without any new confirmed cases of the coronavirus, in the past week, there have been three new confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the county.

This makes sense, given that the county entered Stage 3 of the province's phased recovery process on July 17. More people are venturing into more places. That said, the county's numbers remain relatively low, with 13 confirmed cases total, 12 of which are now considered resolved. The latest active confirmed case has in addition to it, as of press time, one probable case, and five high-risk contacts.

Throughout the pandemic, each time there have been cases confirmed locally, there are calls to release specific locations, or even names.

Health units count cases by residents' permanent addresses, and within the HKPR health unit's jurisdiction, cases are disclosed by location, in terms of whether residents live in the City of Kawartha Lakes, Northumberland County or the County of Haliburton. The disclosed location does not get more specific than that (with the exception of long-term care homes), and certainly, in the context of Haliburton County, there are people who'd like to know whether an infected person lives in Minden or Haliburton Village or Eagle Lake, etc. Taking it even further, there have been calls from residents for the health unit to publicly disclose names.

It's important to remember that



CHAD INGRAM
Reporter

in this country, we all enjoy a legal, reasonable right to privacy under its privacy laws. Information that is of a public health concern is shared between agencies under this legislation, and disclosure of information comes down to a legal weighing of public benefit versus an individual's right to privacy.

People who've contracted COVID-19 are not pariahs. They are not wanted by police. They have a right to privacy. Having contracted the virus is part of their private medical records. How many of us would want our private health information, COVID-19 related or not, publicly disclosed?

There is no need for anyone to know the identity of these individuals. Why would there be? So they can be treated as biblical era lepers? So a scarlet C can be painted on their doors? Anyone who's been diagnosed with COVID-19 is legally obligated to self-isolate for two weeks, and can be fined or even jailed if health units discover they've violated that order. After that period, statistically, most patients will be considered recovered from the virus.

We know COVID-19 is in the county, we may not know precisely where, but we know it's here. It's in our community. It was true at the beginning of the pandemic, and it's true now, that the safest thing for all of us to do is assume we could have it, assume that anyone we come into contact with could have it, and act accordingly.

Stay two metres from one another, wear a mask in public indoor spaces, and wash your hands.

INOTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Kwarky



Kim Wank

The evolution of the camper

THE OTHER DAY I ran into a fellow who was sitting on a park bench beside a recreational vehicle that was roughly the size of my first house. This was parked in a municipal parking lot in the centre of town and running on a generator and assorted power outlets.

When I passed by, he told me that he and his wife love to "camp."

A lot of people would have laughed at that statement, since the nearest "wilderness" was a manicured lawn 15 feet away. But I'm not one of those people. I am old enough to recognize a highly evolved camper when I see one.

The camping process, as most campers know, is not so much about the destination as the journey. That's because a camping destination is loosely defined as a place where raccoons and mosquitoes gather and where it rains from the moment you arrive to the moment you leave. The journey, on the other hand, is defined as a happy event on the way there and a happier event on the way back.

The fact that the journey either way is such a happy event is why people buy RVs.

But I am getting ahead of myself.

The average camper starts with far more youth and romanticism as well as a body that doesn't ache in damp weather.

That's why they begin with the simple thought "Why have a tent when you can sleep under the stars?"

It's actually very cute.

But, after their first outing, they discover the answer – mosquitoes and rain.

Like all evolutionary processes, those who do not adapt, do not survive to the next phase in evolution, which is the pup tent.

Pup tent campers quickly learn the cardinal rule of tent camping, that being, if you want to find a sharp rock, place your sleep-

ing bag on the ground and get in it.

This is such an unfailing rule that if I were ever starting a company that sells sharp rocks, I would hire a bunch of campers to find them.

This realization eventually leads them to buying expensive inflatable sleeping bag pads, whose sole purpose is to make sharp, jutting rocks feel duller.

The evolution continues from there.

Somewhere along the way, the pup tent camper discovers that "roughing it" would be much better if they had a "few" items.

These include, portable camp stove, headlamps, better sleeping bags, a nicer waterproof and windproof tent, a water filtration system, a portable shower, a solar powered cooler, titanium mess kits and cutlery, camp chairs, camp table, radio, generator, big screen TV, their own personal satellite and several manservants.

Of course, these amenities are not inexpensive, so campers purchase them slowly over time as their view of camping evolves. Eventually, they reach the tent trailer and camper trailer stage.

Then something quite miraculous happens. It is a metamorphosis of sorts, much like that of a caterpillar turning into a monarch butterfly. The only difference being, they don't have to consume milkweed.

Basically, it is this. By the time these campers have reached middle-age or older, they understand two things: first, they have a lot of camping gear and, second, camping would be so much better if they could only sleep in a bed that is close to a kitchen and a big screen TV.

So, they have a garage sale and sell all their camping gear and use that money to buy a recreational vehicle.

And then they become the happiest campers that I know.



STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Cool air and a warm blanket

IF I STAND on tiptoes this week I can see August. That makes me happy because I've never been a fan of July. Too much heat. Too many people.

August is a much better month, with thinning summer crowds and the first hints of cool fall air. And, of course, the further August progresses, the cooler the temperatures become.

My Northwestern Ontario blood likes coolness, which gets me thinking about pulling out the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) point blanket. That blanket on my bed is a sign that the hot, muggy nights of summer are being pushed aside by temperatures more to my liking.



JIM POLING SR.

From *Shaman's Rock*

This year, however, I'll pull out the HBC blanket with some discomfort. These blankets are a significant part of history, and history and the objects that it reflects, are under attack.

Monuments, statues and other memorials are being torn down or defaced in many parts of the world. It all seems to have started with the U.S. Confederacy and slavery, but has spread to other historical issues and historically prominent persons.

The HBC blanket could be easily identified as an item with some history that no one should glorify.

The Hudson's Bay Company introduced the wool point blanket with its coloured stripes and points (black markers) in 1779. It got the idea for the blanket from French weavers who developed a point system as a way to specify a blanket's finished size.

The points were simple black lines on a corner of the blanket. One black line or point indicated a small blanket; five indicated a large one.

Blankets became a currency during the fur trade, with merchants pricing them according to their number of points.

Point blankets were taken in trade by Indigenous people for furs. They became valuable household items used as sleeping covers, robes and for gift giving. But for some Indigenous people the HBC point blanket represents colonialization and the dispossession of their land and culture.

The British infected trade blankets with smallpox as a chemical warfare means to eradicate Indigenous populations. Jeffery Amherst, commander of British forces in North America, suggested this during the 1763 Pontiac Uprising in Pennsylvania.

"You will Do well to try to Innoculate [sic] the Indians by means of Blankets, as well as to try Every other method that can serve to Extirpate this Execrable Race," Amherst wrote in a letter to a subordinate.

Amherst is considered the architect of the British campaign to take what is now Canada from the French.

His name is honoured in Canadian streets and towns – Amherst, Nova Scotia, Amherstburg, Ontario – but those namings are being reconsidered. The city of Montreal last year renamed Amherst Street Rue Atatekan, a Mohawk word denoting equality among people.

Although Amherst was prominent in military campaigns in Canada, there is no evidence of infecting blankets, or of even suggesting the idea, in Canada. Some writers have said there was but that is pure speculation based on what happened in Pennsylvania.

Such a monstrous action certainly would not have benefitted the Hudson's Bay Company. Killing customers is not smart business.

Wanting to topple historic monuments and cancel tributes given to some prominent historic figures is understandable, especially when you consider cruel racists like Amherst.

However, despite knowing the history of trade blankets, I plan to keep and cherish my HBC point blanket. To me it is an important reminder of past wrongs and the racism that continues today against Indigenous peoples.

It is a reminder that the times and the people were different back then, and many thought and acted in ways that most of us now find repulsive.

I wrote "most of us" because it is evident that despite the passage of time allowing us to create a more diverse and better educated society, intolerance and racism remain a problem.

The Bolsonaro administration in Brazil and the U.S. Trump administration both are attacking Indigenous lands and rights in favour of special interests. Here's one Bolsonaro quote from the past:

"It's a shame that the Brazilian cavalry hasn't been as efficient as the Americans, who exterminated the Indians."

Closer to home we have Prime Minister Trudeau and RCMP Commissioners Brenda Lucki both admitting systemic racism exists in the national police force.

Hot, hot, hot

IT'S BEEN HOT this summer. I can't remember the last time I saw so many heat warnings on my weather app. In February we dream of this kind of weather but now that it's here we are experiencing a full dose of how uncomfortable it can be. In addition to the discomfort, this type of heat can be dangerous especially if you're exerting yourself by working or exercising in it.

There are three health risks of prolonged exposure to heat. In the order of severity they are: heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heatstroke.

- Heat Cramps: These are painful, involuntary muscle cramps that can occur during intense exercise/work in the heat. The spasms can be more intense than the nighttime leg cramps. The muscles most often affected are calves, arms, abs and back.

- Heat Exhaustion: Symptoms of heat exhaustion may include heavy sweating and a rapid pulse. Exposure to high temperatures, especially combined with high humidity and strenuous physical activity can result in the body overheating. Without treatment it can lead to heatstroke.

- Heatstroke: This happens when the body's core temperature reaches 40°C or higher. Symptoms include disorientation and a lack of sweat. If left untreated it can lead to unconsciousness, organ failure and death.

Should you or someone you're with experience the symptoms of heat cramps or

heat exhaustion stop what you're doing. Get to a cool place and hydrate with water or an electrolyte* drink. If you suspect heatstroke, get to medical attention as soon as possible.

*There are so many on the market experiment to find the one that works best for you.

Of course, it's best to avoid the risk in the first place.

- When possible schedule activities for early in the day or after the sun goes down.

- Take frequent breaks in a cool area (shaded or air conditioned).

- Stay out of the sun.

- Hydrate. Drinking water is great but sometimes an electrolyte drink is a more effective option.

- Check the weather. If it's going to be too hot reschedule the activity. Better to be safe.

We wait so long to enjoy the summer months that we tend to overlook that heat can be dangerous. It's easy to talk ourselves into getting out there when we really shouldn't. That's why it's so important to know the risks and train ourselves to recognize the symptoms of getting overheated. Get to know your limits and respect them.

Something to think about.

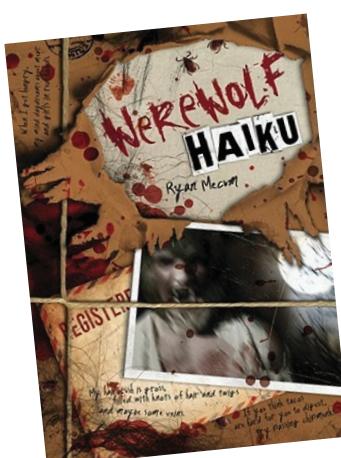
Laurie Sweig is a certified personal fitness trainer and spinning instructor. She owns and operates The Point for Fitness. She can be reached at laurie@thepointforfitness.com.

Lazy day

Cows in a pasture on Deep Bay Road look up from grazing on Thursday afternoon, July 23, near Minden. / DARREN LUM Staff



Nonfic Pick - July



Werewolf Haiku by Ryan Mecum

"Dear haiku journal,

I think I killed some people. That was no dog bite."

Considered nonfiction due to its poetry classification, the story in this journal is decidedly wild. Follow the humorous poetic musings of a mailman who, after being bitten by what he thinks is a dog, discovers that he is now actually a werewolf. He details his new life and transformations (and the new havoc he's wreaking) in the 5-7-5 syllable structure of haiku—his poetry of choice.

No toenail, entrail, or pigtail will be left behind.

Madly in love with a woman on his route, he's never had the courage to tell her. Fighting against his urges during each full moon, though, he discovers that succumbing to primal instinct will not only bag him a meal—it just might help his quest for love ... Or maybe not. Check out the quirky ebook from Haliburton County Public Library.

Legions opening their doors again to community

by SUE TIFFIN
Times Staff

While three local Royal Canadian Legions in the county – Haliburton, Branch 129, Wilberforce, Branch 624, and Minden, Branch 636 – closed their doors alongside other Legions across the country on March 17 to help reduce the spread of coronavirus, they didn't stop helping veterans in need during the shut-down, or those in need of financial support.

Now, with Phase 3 initiated by the province allowing buildings to be open with social distancing measures in place, the Legions are opening back up for those looking to get out of the house and socialize once again, which may recoup some of their losses.

Wilberforce's Douglas C. Hatch branch reopened on July 22.

"We just reopened yesterday, and we're going to see how it goes," said president John Glassey. "We've had to reduce our hours, and we're working with what we've got. There's some of the stuff we can't do right now – a lot of the events we would have, have been cancelled, we can't do dances or anything like that."

Glassey said since March, the Legion has had to cancel numerous events and fundraisers that usually bring the community together and help fundraise for the Legion's efforts: fishing derbies, horseshoe tournaments, a golf tournament – all cancelled while the country's top medical officer asked for people to stay home, and then the province's emergency state called for no gatherings, eventually allowing only small gatherings.

"Those are the things that make us the



The Minden Legion in busier times, last November on Remembrance Day. Legions are now taking measures to allow for social distancing and safety inside as Phase 3 of the province's reopening plan during the pandemic allows for buildings to invite guests in again. /File photo

money, so it's going to be a hard go, but we'll do what we can," said Glassey.

Though last week's first day turnout wasn't a big one, Glassey said it hadn't been advertised much as the Legion's volunteers were "just trying to get things back in order and make sure everything's up to par."

Things will look a bit different as the Legion reopens. Card nights on Mondays can't happen due to the close contact of participants, nor Saturday's meat draws because of the handling of cash and tickets, but darts

on Wednesday night with participants wearing masks might be an option, and Friday wing nights can still happen even if a jam session might not be possible.

Phase 3's allowance of groups up to 50 people inside, while still social distancing, can allow for more options than takeout, which the Wilberforce branch didn't implement due to a lack of heavy traffic along Burleigh Road, but the schedule of the Legion's future reopening all depends on whether or not people come, and what the executive – which hasn't been able to get together for elections yet or hold a general meeting with enough participating for quorum – decide will work best.

Glassey said it's been a rough go – the groups that make use of the building haven't been able to, and though not using the restaurant saved in gas for the kitchen, and not using the building offered a relief of the amount of electricity being used, the air conditioner is now up and running again. Legions across Canada haven't qualified for much of the government help that is available, and although Legion Command offered those in need some emergency help, many Legions are still struggling with the lost revenue caused by the closure. "Put it this way, our expenses are a lot more than our income right now," said Glassey.

Still, Glassey said the branch isn't looking at closure, something that more than 150 of

“

A lot of the events we would have, have been cancelled, we can't do dances or anything like that

— JOHN GLASSEY

”

the Legion's 1,381 branches might be facing according to media reports last week.

"Not really closure," he said. "I mean, I know it's going to be tight, we have a few things we can back up on. Normally this branch would make our money in the summer, and that gets us through the winter. Right in March when we shut down, that was the beginning of our better season, and that would go through to October. So we've got a few months to try and gain some back. So we'll see what we can do."

With hockey play-offs coming back to broadcast, Glassey is hopeful the community will feel comfortable coming out to take in a game, or that others might pick up some takeout or get together once again, though he noted there might be some patrons who were "going to be not too keen" on wearing a mask and social distancing.

"I guess we're all going to have to get used to it around here," he said. "I mean, everyone's going to have to do it no matter what they do."

Over at the Haliburton Legion, Don Pitman, first vice-president, took a break from painting and cleaning up in the basement to speak to the upcoming reopening of the Mountain Street branch.

Apart from the work of the women's auxiliary, the Haliburton branch doesn't offer food, and so opening for takeout wasn't an option. Pitman thought a soft opening might take place in August.

In the meantime, volunteers have been inside, doing what Pitman said was "a little bit of tidy-up," and preparing to open the doors once again.

"We've just started meetings back up," he said. "We're kind of hoping to be back in business from an executive and a leadership standpoint probably within the next 15 to 20 days, and then we can sort of strike out anew. We're going to have to trim our sails and

see page 9

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Minden branch reopened last week

from page 8

change our course a little bit because it's all dictated by what the government allows you to do."

The Haliburton Legion is also not currently facing closure, according to Pitman.

"We're not in dire straits as others ... because of some really prudent financial management on some of our former leaders here, but you know there's a lot of places around that are really struggling, a lot of other Legions that we've been made aware of that are just kind of hanging on by their teeth," he said, noting the news of potential closures across Canada. "We're very fortunate here because we're a little bit of the heartbeat of Haliburton, so we do a lot of, well, when we can, we do a lot of weddings and events, in our 2,300 square foot hall upstairs. But that's all kind of stopped right now."

Pitman noted the Legion had recently undergone renovations that increase its attractiveness as a rental facility.

"We did a bunch of renovations last year, upstairs, and our rentals had ramped up substantially to what they were because people were liking what they saw, as far as the improvements go," he said. "And we're going to try to keep that trend going."

Pitman said he hoped to let people know that the Legion would be opening again soon, and that it would be looking for the community's support, "and we'll continue to support the community."

"We're always interested in people who want to lend a hand, either by body or by cheque book. We're pretty fortunate, we're kind of holding our own, we're just like everybody else, just trying to cope with COVID changes and limited numbers."

The Mabel Brannigan branch in Minden has been open for takeout during Phase 2, and also reopened the building to a restricted number of guests last week.

"Takeout was nowhere near our normal business but it was OK," said president Jim Ross. "It gave us a little bit of a revenue stream, and community support. That was OK, not great, but a little bit of revenue, helped pay the bills, so to speak."

Despite the response not being overwhelming, Ross said, "the word's getting out there."

The Minden branch has been able to keep its contribution level to veterans and community groups, including upcoming school programs that assist students in need, but Ross said the Legion had experienced a "serious drop in revenue" over the time it had been closed, not being able to open for celebrations of life, weddings, and group rentals.

"And remember, this is tourist season up here, this is normally our busiest section of the year, and we've been closed," he said.

Changes have been made to the Legion inside, according to recommendations from the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit, including tables being spaced six feet apart, a change in patio tables to make them more

comfortable and easy to clean, and staff wearing personal protection equipment. "I think we're a very, very safe environment," said Ross. "We've taken all of those steps."

He noted members and staff would like to see the crowds coming back to the restaurant again, "people back in the building and feeling safe and getting back into the swing of things," but said everyone has to feel safe for that to happen.

"I don't think there's any danger of closure," he said. "We're fine that way. And again we know we have a strong community base and well, I'm sure that they'll be back when they're able, when they feel safe. People have got to feel safe in the building. That's not just us, it's everywhere that is reopening, there's fear on the side of people to get back inside, they've got to know it's safe. I think, we've spent a lot of time committing ourselves to that, so I think it will happen. We'll get back, we'll get our people back and we'll be up and running."

Ross said he really wanted to see the weekly activities held for seniors: darts, euchre, card games, up and running again.

"This is where we're really hurting, this is the really difficult part is because we are really the seniors centre in the community," he said. "We don't have a seniors centre and the Legion kind of took over part of that role. They haven't been able to play cards and they haven't been able to play darts. All of that, we still can't do it because you have to maintain the social distancing. And so until we get the go ahead for that, we can't do it. The seniors are really hurting. They haven't been able to socialize, and it doesn't sound like much but weekly card games are very important to them and that hasn't been able to happen and so we're really sorry about that but we'll get it back as soon as we can."

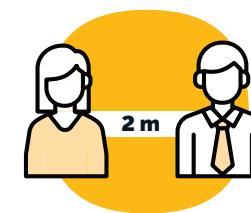
When further restrictions are lifted and closer gatherings are allowed, Ross said the activities would be quick to come back.

"Once we've got the go-ahead from the health unit to be able to do it, we'll do it, because we know that they're really hurting, and we want to get that back up and operating as fast as we can," he said.

Now, the Legion hopes the next few months allow for business before the winter comes.

"We'll get through the pandemic all right," said Ross. "Our biggest concern is the upcoming winter. We've been without revenue for a long period of time, and up here, it's a long, cold winter. That's when we have the majority of our expenses. We're hoping we can get enough revenue stream to meet our obligations for the winter. That's our biggest concern of the whole thing. We're back open for business. And we have very strong community support, we're hoping that translates into a return to normal, some kind of normalcy as to that branch, we can get on with our business and start contributing back to the community and do the things we do."

As more businesses and services reopen, we must all continue our efforts to protect each other.



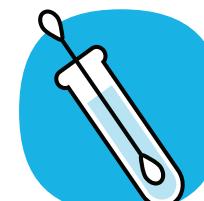
Continue to practice physical distancing, stay two metres apart even in gatherings.



Wear a face covering where physical distancing is a challenge or where required.



Continue to wash hands frequently.



Get tested if you are worried you may have COVID-19, or have been exposed to the virus.

Inside or out, stay safe. Save lives.

HHHS ends fiscal year with surplus

by JENN WATT
Editor

The last fiscal year for Haliburton Highlands Health Services has been one unlike any other, the attendees of the annual general meeting heard on July 16.

"It certainly was an unprecedented year and as you know ... our team has been working very hard to ensure HHHS is able to continue providing excellent, high quality, compassionate care," CEO Carolyn Plummer said in her address, which was made over the Zoom online videoconferencing service.

Although much attention has been pointed toward the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the AGM addressed work done in 2019, as the fiscal year ended March 31, 2020.

Plummer's report showed that the emergency departments continued to see steady usage with more than 11,300 visits to the Haliburton site and nearly 15,000 visits in Minden. Telemedicine services, which connect patients to health-care services at a distance using technology, included more than 1,400 visits in 2019-2020, saving about 466,000 kilometres of driving. Telemedicine became "more popular and more critical" during the pandemic.

Other services highlighted included physiotherapy services (1,200 in-patient visits), diagnostic imaging (more than 10,000 X-rays), long-term care (with more than 90 residents), and a wide array of community



programs.

Community Support Services was busy in 2019-2020 offering diabetes education, Meals on Wheels, mental health services, transportation, friendly visiting, foot care, the adult day program, bereavement program, home help, and more.

Plummer provided an update on how HHHS is moving forward on components of its strategic plan, including receiving the "in development" designation toward creating an Ontario Health Team. This process was put on hold due to the coronavirus pandemic, however the CEO explained that the team used the structure already assembled for the Ontario Health Team application to respond to the pandemic.

"Although this obviously was not in the plans,... we basically shifted our Ontario Health Team efforts into our pandemic planning efforts. And so the task force emerged quite naturally and the group of people around the table continues to meet today to work on making sure we are doing ev-

erything we can do to keep our community safe," she said.

The Haliburton Highlands Ontario Health Team, if given the green light from the Ministry of Health, is a collection of health-care partners who would collaborate on delivering services to the region.

Plummer said the master plan's first phase is complete and that a work plan has been created to apply for additional long-term care beds. Funding is being sought for a second phase of the master plan. An in-depth review of emergency response plans is underway. She also noted that in the last year the roof leak was repaired at Highland Wood long-term care home following a months-long evacuation.

The CEO thanked the staff for their work: "This year has demonstrated beyond any doubt that our team has had the strength, the resilience and the dedication that goes beyond any words that I could possibly imagine."

New ER doc added to team

Dr. Keith Hay, past chief of staff, similarly said that focus has gone to COVID-19 preparations at HHHS and he noted the work of Dr. Steve Ferracuti in providing leadership. "That said, every physician member of the [Medical Advisory Committee] has been involved in making the changes that have occurred since March and on behalf of the hospital I want to thank them, as well as the staff, management and board for a job well done."

A new physician for the Haliburton emergency department has joined the team and Hay said he anticipated more doctors to come. "This has reduced the number of [emergency department] shifts filled by the Health Force Ontario's ED Locum Program," he said.

Hay noted that midwives have been credentialed at HHHS "and while this does not mean that they will be delivering newborns at our hospital, we are able to assist them with the valuable care they provide pregnant

women in our community."

Dr. Karl Hartwick's 40 years of service was recognized and the AGM attendees heard he will be appointed an honorary member of the Medical Advisory Committee.

Year-end surplus

HHHS finished the 2019-2020 fiscal year with a surplus of just more than \$20,000, according to information presented by John West of Grant Thornton. Slides showed most of the corporation's income (82 per cent) comes from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care with more than \$22 million. Net revenues for 2020 were about \$27.5 million.

Salaries, wages and benefits account for 62 per cent of spending at more than \$17 million, followed by "other supplies" at \$5.4 million, medical compensation at \$3.2 million and drugs and medical supplies at more than \$393,000.

Financial information shows grants and donations in 2020 nearing \$1.5 million with \$756,000 from the HHHS Foundation, \$70,000 from the Haliburton auxiliary, \$29,000 from the Minden auxiliary, about \$78,000 from insurance proceeds, and \$546,400 from Ministry of Health grants.

Chiefs of staff recognized

In a document circulated following the meeting, Dr. Kristy Gammon and Dr. Keith Hay were thanked for their service to HHHS. Dr. Gammon was chief of staff from 2017 to 2019 and Dr. Hay filled that role when Dr. Gammon left on sabbatical from February 2019 to June 2020.

"Dr. Gammon's steadfast commitment has supported the organization's values of compassion, accountability, integrity and respect," the document reads, "and her important and lasting contribution to HHHS as chief of staff will leave a lasting legacy."

She is credited with working on physician recruitment and retention, improving care support for patients awaiting long-term care, input on policies and clinical programs, among other things.

Dr. Hay's willingness to step in when Dr. Gammon left was noted as well as the "fresh perspective and ideas [he brought to] the organization." Dr. Hay launched the environmental committee, helped with the accreditation survey process and supported the medical team during the COVID-19 crisis.

 July 24, 2020

NOTICE TO THE PATIENTS OF DR. AOIFE CONWAY

It is with mixed emotions that I wish to inform you that I will be retiring from my family practice at the end of December 2020.

It has been my sincere privilege and honour to have been your family physician for the past number of years.

I appreciate and value the relationships that have developed as a result.

I am very excited and pleased to be able to inform you that Dr. Haley Hatch will be taking over my practice starting January 4, 2021. Many of you have already met Dr. Hatch as she has covered my practice at various times over the past 2 years. You will know, as I do, that she is a kind, caring and extremely capable physician. I know you will be well cared for. She will be a welcome addition to our health care team.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call my office at 705-457-1212 and ask to speak to our office manager.

I would like to thank you for your kindness and support over the years and I wish you all the best in the future.

Warmest regards,
Aoife Conway, MD., CCFP.

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Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 13

Minden River Cone has Destiny on its side

by DARREN LUM
Times Staff

Patrons of Minden's River Cone will be able to continue enjoying the unique experience of ordering their burger and milkshake out of a giant soft-serve ice cream cone, with a young new owner, who has a passion for food.

Recent Haliburton Highlands Secondary School graduate Destiny Wilson-Wells said buying The Minden River Cone from Paul Barclay was about love.

"I've always been passionate about cooking so when I figured out that I could work here most of the time and when I had the opportunity to purchase, I hopped on as soon as I could," she said.

The 19-year-old said the business is in her name, but was purchased with the help of her mother, Kelly Wilson. The Minden River Cone will keep its name, she said.

When she was 14 years old, the River Cone was her first job.

"I heard about it from my friend and she said she was going to come and work here. 'Hey, maybe we can work together.' And then both of us fell in love with the job," she said.

She learned about the daily operation of the business from taking cash to working with customers to cooking and ordering supplies.

Wilson-Wells graduated on June 25 and opened the eatery, located next to the Gull River in downtown Minden, the next day.

She said buying this business was partly due to her work experience, but was also related to her connection to the past owner.

"It was a great little summer job. I loved my boss. My boss was kind of like a father figure to me so I connected well with him," she said.

With her mom's help, she is running the business with two full-time employees until it closes for the season mid-October. She plans on reopening mid-May next year. The hours of operation are seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. The restaurant offers take-out food with open air and sheltered seating next to the river, including a playground in the form of a masted ship and outdoor movie viewing area with screen at the back.

From what she has seen this season, the business has been "better than expected from last year."

Although the official date of the hand-off for the business isn't until mid-August, she said the transition has been assisted by Barclay.

There's been "lots of inspiring people in my life," she said, who are behind her in her decision to get into the restaurant business.

Wilson-Wells said her inspiration and early education on cooking came from her step-father, chef Nick Draker-Fortis, who taught her at home as a child, sharing his knowledge as a chef and culinary programs technologist at Fleming College in Peterborough. She remembers being taken by her step-father to a Fleming College open house as a three-year-old where there were culinary demonstrations for visitors.

Wilson-Wells also studied hospitality and tourism all four years she attended HHSS.

HHSS teacher Melissa Stephens is one of her other culinary inspirations; Stephens taught her for two and a half years in the hospitality and tourism program.

She said there will be a few changes to the menu, which includes a kids' menu, but nothing drastic that would concern regulars.

"We are probably going to change up the



2020 Haliburton Highlands Secondary School graduate Destiny Wilson-Wells welcomes people to enjoy a homemade burger and milkshake at The Minden River Cone, which she will officially take ownership of in August. Wilson-Wells said it's her passion for cooking that motivated her to buy the iconic eatery from Paul Barclay./DARREN LUM Staff

“

I've always been passionate about cooking so when I figured out that I could work here most of the time and when I had the opportunity to purchase, I hopped on as soon as I could

— DESTINY WILSON-WELLS

”

menu a little bit, but we're going to try to stick relatively the same and hoping to expand in couple years or a few years," she said.

She said the menu will change for greater diversity of items, adding vegan options. However regular patrons of the eatery who love the hamburgers don't have to worry about missing out because those won't change "because our homemade recipe is a big hit around town and a big tourist attraction." Ice cream will obviously stay on the menu.

As a recent HHSS grad, taking ownership of this establishment comes with a sense of pride, she said.

She has hopes of opening another restaurant in the area.

She'd also like to open up the movie screening area behind the cone by the end of this season or next year, which will help to draw more people.

Her message to the public?

"I'm really excited to open and I hope that it goes well," she said.

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MP pens letter of support to end blood donor policy

by DARREN LUM
Times Staff

Blood might be within you to give, but the slogan of Canadian Blood Services doesn't apply equally to everyone.

Despite blood shortages in Canada (even more so during the pandemic), Minden Pride chairperson David Rankin said Canadian Blood Services and Héma-Québec are continuing to deny thousands of citizens the chance to give blood based on decisions made dating back to the Red Cross tainted blood scandal in the 1980s.

Currently, men who have had sex with men or trans-women in the last three months are not permitted to give blood.

"I do understand maybe why they may be cautious given the [tainted blood scandal] tragedy that happened with vi-

ruses getting into the blood supply and then being donated to vulnerable people. It's a huge issue, but we also have to take a look at what is essentially systemic homophobia, as opposed to scientific [basis]. So they have to adjust that and do that very rapidly in my opinion and it seems more of a perception than actual scientifically evidenced reason," he said.

He questioned how a man in a monogamous relationship with another man was any different from a man in a heterosexual relationship when it comes to donating blood.

Rankin wrote a letter to MP Jamie Schmale, asking for his support in ending the three-month restriction. Schmale responded with a letter dated July 6.

An excerpt from the letter, reads, "I agree with you that this is a non-partisan issue and [ask] that no one should have to deny who they are in order to donate blood to save lives. I am in favour of treating homosexual blood donors on the same level as heterosexual blood donors. If medical experts agree, then I see no reason to continue the ban and would encourage the government to make good on their now four year promise to end the blood ban."

From 1992 to 2013 there was a lifetime ban against donations from homosexual men. By 2013, the Red Cross was replaced by CBS and Héma-Québec and the lifetime ban was changed to five years.

In 2015, the Liberals ran on an election campaign to end what they characterized as the discriminatory ban on blood donations and in 2019 the rule was changed to three months.

Rankin said he appreciated the support expressed by Schmale in the letter, which was posted to the Minden Pride social media accounts.

This isn't the first time Schmale has acted on a request by the Minden Pride organization.

"He supported us by drafting a letter and sending it off to the appropriate minister and asking for inclusion of funds to support LGBTQ festivals basically. We have fortunately been [a] recipient of some of that money and I appreciated Jamie for supporting us on that. So we're quite pleased," Rankin said.

Minden Pride, a volunteer-driven, non-profit Haliburton

County organization, has lent its support to the All Blood is Equal campaign, asking for help and providing links to the campaign through social media platforms.

The All Blood is Equal campaign says CBS and Héma-Québec use "outdated, prejudiced policies which target two-spirit, gay, bisexual and queer men, trans-women and men who have sex with men."

They argue that they want to see them "screening potential donors through a scientific lens and on a case-by-case basis."

Canadian Blood Services' chief scientist Dr. Dana Devine spoke in a video in 2018 about blood collection practices with Rob Higgins, research manager for Sex Now Survey at Community-Based Research for Gay Men's Health.

She said changing policy takes time and is done over a multi-stage process, keeping the long-term recipients of blood and blood products in mind.

"That relates a bit back to their ability to trust the blood supply and to trust the providers of the blood supply and it goes right back to our tainted blood tragedy in Canada, which we got hepatitis and HIV into blood products and we harmed a lot of people in the country doing that. People need to have the trust that changes we make are not going to recreate that scenario again," she said.

Devine said the risk for tainted blood is associated with behaviour.

"The leap we have to make is going from the general population risk that one sees in a statistic to be able to say, 'How do we identify that subset of sexually active gay men, who are safe blood donors?' And right now we don't have all the research conducted to be able to show Health Canada that we have data that will support our request to look at doing something differently," she said.

Ridding society of systemic discrimination needs to be a constant, Rankin said.

"This issue is certainly not of the same weight as some of the things that brought Black Lives Matter to the forefront, but it is just another example there are elements of systemic discrimination and that I think we have to deal with wherever we encounter that," he said.

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Above it all

People of all ages took advantage of Bissett Beach earlier this month, swimming, relaxing and getting into the swing of things. /DARREN LUM Staff

Mid-year review shows county finances OK

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

Haliburton County councillors received a mid-year review of the county's finances at a July 22 online meeting, a review they had requested in May amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

That review showed the county to be in a stable financial situation, although chief administrative officer Mike Rutter was careful to emphasize at the beginning of that discussion, that the county government realizes that many residents have been left in dire financial straits as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.

"We know there are many people that really are suffering as a result of COVID-19," Rutter said. "I've experienced it in my own family, and I know many in our community have as well. And we don't want anything we say to be misconstrued as minimizing our concern for, our genuine concern for residents. We know there is a lot of pain out there, and we don't want to minimize that at all."

One option before council was the re-opening of the budget to reduce costs, something that was not recommended by staff, unless the county's four lower-tier municipalities were going to re-open theirs as well.

The lower-tier municipalities collect taxes on behalf of themselves, the upper tier of the county, and the school board.

The municipalities have pushed their property tax deadlines back over the past few months to give residents some leniency amid the crisis.

"Those who have sent out their final bills would actually have to re-bill," Rutter said, "and I'm not sure the extent of the challenges that would create for them, but in order to pass those savings along to ratepayers, they would have to re-bill their final bills."

A report from treasurer Elaine Taylor contained a list of projects that, if set aside, could result in potential capital savings of nearly \$500,000, as well as operational savings of more than \$250,000, should they be required. The county has incurred some unbudgeted expenses as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, such as heightened cleaning budgets and IT expenses for the facilitation of online meetings. However, it has also saved money in other areas due to the pandemic. Money had been budgeted for staff for the implementation of shoreline protection bylaw, for example. The public input process on that controversial bylaw was delayed because of the crisis.

Overall, halfway through the year, the county had spent 48 per cent of its budget.

"So, we are running on budget for the end of year, we don't have issues with cash," Taylor told councillors. "The local

municipalities appear to be meeting their obligations with respect to the levy payments."

"Overall, the county is in a very good financial standing," Taylor said, adding its approximate \$4 million in reserves are expected to total \$4.5 million by the end of the year.

"To me, the purpose of requesting this report was more, in my mind . . . were there going to be loss of revenues in some areas, we didn't want a big surprise come November or December, and say, oh, we're in quite a bit of deficit this year, and then have to pull from reserves," said Dysart et al Mayor Andrea Roberts, who added she thought the lower-tier municipalities would be hit harder with revenue losses associated with the COVID-19 crisis. "We have lost revenue from parking meters. I know it doesn't sound significant, but it's like \$50,000 . . . we have loss of revenues at our arenas, we have loss of revenues in other areas. So maybe it's more the lower tiers that are going to have to be looking at it."

County Warden Liz Daniels, also deputy mayor for the Township of Algonquin Highlands, said Algonquin Highlands had taken similar revenue hits in its parks, rec and trails department.

"It shows that there isn't surprises, and has been stated, we have reserves if we get a surprise that we don't foresee," said Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin.



Lennon checks on the milkweed regularly in his front yard in Minden, keeping an eye on the activity of busy monarch caterpillars. /Submitted photo

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Health unit answers questions on COVID-19 data, contact tracing

by SUE TIFFIN
Times Staff

As of Tuesday, July 28, 13 people in Haliburton County have had confirmed cases of Haliburton County. All cases but one, reported yesterday, have been resolved.

The *Minden Times* asked the health unit some of the questions about its data and the reporting of it that readers have asked online.

Schedule of data reporting changes to three times a week

Though data was initially uploaded on the weekend and daily throughout the week, as of last week, the health unit announced the information would now be updated on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays only, excluding holidays.

"The change in reporting reflects what other Ontario health units are doing and is also indicative of the relatively stable COVID-19 situation currently being seen in the area," said Chandra Tremblay, HKPR District Health Unit spokesperson. "While HKPR staff will continue to provide daily COVID-19 case counts to the province, the reporting change will also free up time and resources for the health unit to fo-

cus more closely on general COVID-19 trends and patterns in the community. This can help to better inform HKPR's actions to further prevent the spread of the virus in the community and assist the health unit in preparing for the next phase of the pandemic."

The health unit is moving back into recovery mode, offering programs and services, Tremblay said, and is also adopting a new case and contact management program that replaces the integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS) being implemented by the province. The new program, said Tremblay, "requires a great deal of time to implement and train staff before the system goes live."

Confirmed cases are primary residents in Haliburton County only

As reported by the Haliburton Echo in April, positive COVID-19 case numbers are listed under the health unit of the infected person's primary residence, which means that the results of those testing positive in Haliburton County who typically live elsewhere are being reported by other health units despite the person having been in Haliburton County, and potentially staying here in isolation. Tremblay said this is the practice with all reportable diseases with all health units in Ontario.

“

If a positive case resides in another area, but is isolating in the HKPR area, HKPR receives necessary notifications and updates from our public health unit partners.

— CHANDRA TREMBLAY

”

In this case, could data in Ontario potentially be skewed, with some places being deemed hot spots though residents with confirmed positive tests might not be located there, or with hospitalizations occurring of people whose positive cases aren't recorded in the region of the hospital?

"When working with reportable, communicable diseases like COVID-19, health units and health partners from across the province will work closely with each other," said Tremblay. "For example, if a positive case resides in another area, but is isolating in the HKPR area, HKPR receives necessary notifications and updates from our public health unit partners. This is also the case with our local hospitals — the health unit works very closely with its local hospitals and will share information about cases and discuss next steps. Through contact tracing, all health units do a thorough investigation of who the confirmed case may have been in contact with during their infectious period. This information is also shared with other health units so that the local health unit may do any contact follow up that is necessary."

Information reported excludes age, gender, town/location

When the health unit has reported confirmed cases, numerous readers have asked for more information, including where that person lives within the county — the health unit, however, does not provide information broken down by lower tier municipality or community.

"This is done because the health unit has the legal responsibility to protect personal health information it has collected under various pieces of legislation such as the Health Protection and Promotion Act," said Tremblay. "Although it may seem that our geographic area has a large enough population to make it impossible to identify an individual, we essentially cover three counties comprised of small towns and it could be very easy to identify someone who tests positive."

"Health units that are providing a more granular breakdown of the residence of positive cases typically have larger populations, making it more difficult to potentially identify a person who has tested positive," said Tremblay.

Health unit follows up with contacts of people with positive test

HKPR District Health Unit staff have been busy with case and contact management, said Tremblay, noting that although the province is rolling out the new online platform to replace iPHIS, the process behind case and contact management remains the same.

The health unit follows up with anyone who has been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, a process called "contact tracing."

Individuals who are considered close contacts to someone who has COVID-19 can include family members, people living in the same household, and anyone who has had direct contact with someone with a positive COVID-19 case.

"The health unit will follow up with these close contacts and give instructions on what they need to do (like self-isolating) to slow the spread of COVID-19," said Tremblay. "The health unit will also do daily phone calls with close contacts to check in on them and ensure they follow public health directions. Health unit staff also work with anyone who has been directed to self-isolate to help ensure they have supports in place for things like grocery delivery, medical appointments and any other identified needs."



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Tammy Nash took these photos of a fawn that visited her property in Algonquin Highlands recently.

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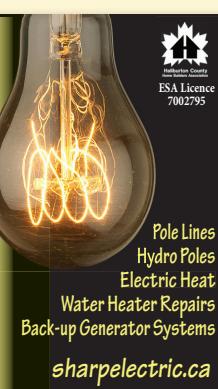
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Kindness rocks

Kelly Taylor, a public health nurse, said she has always loved painting rocks. While searching for ideas on Pinterest, she came across the Kindness Rocks project.

"I believe that someone in the U.S. started it and there are many different versions," she said. "It has basically become a trend of painting rocks for others to collect or share and hopefully connect people in the community and brighten their day with this simple act of kindness." Taylor, alongside son Baylen, began with 14 rocks and have added four more to a spot alongside the Minden Riverwalk. She encouraged others to both take rocks and create new rocks with a message, symbol, picture or just colours to share with others, noting it's a project well-suited for kids to help share kindness, too.

"Big or small, it doesn't matter – really the only rule is to be kind," said Taylor. "Who knows? Maybe that message on a rock will change someone's day and bring a needed smile." /Photo submitted by Kelly Taylor

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Our Annual GIGANTICO Garage Sale Location: **1003 Moonrise Bay Lane, (off of Hospitality Road) South Lake, Minden.** Date: Friday July 31st, 8am-6pm. Saturday Aug 1st, 8am-4pm. Sunday Aug 2nd, 8am-Noon. **Be sure to check it out!** Lots of items for sale!

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The Minden Hills Cultural Centre is Hiring!

The MHCC is currently seeking summer students for the 2020 season, ending August 22.

- Duties include (but are not limited to):
- Assisting with developing and delivering public programming,
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The Township of Algonquin Highlands is looking for a Seasonal Maintenance Worker (Stanhope Yard) with equipment and building repair experience to assist with all aspects of municipal maintenance programs.

A detailed job description is available online at www.algonquinhighlands.ca

Please submit your resume by **3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 4, 2020** to:

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*It is with sadness that Richard and Janet MacAllan announce
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Betty was born in St. Thomas, Ontario, and was the daughter of Esther Livingstone Stewart and Allan Harry MacAllan. Sister of Douglas Harry MacAllan. Betty was pre-deceased by her husband John Edward Dicker, to whom she was married for 51 years.

After a successful career working as a Medical Secretary at the University of Western Ontario, Betty and John retired to Haliburton in 1981. With the help of friends and family they built their own home and have participated in many local activities.

For those who wish to, may make a Donation in memory of Betty, to a charity of your choice and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



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No increase in County budget

Haliburton County taxpayers won't see an increase in the county portion of their tax bills. County council set its budget earlier this month, about three and a half months later than usual.

Confusion over responsibilities, as mandated by the provincial government, left county officials scratching their heads, wondering which bills they were going to have to pay. With the numbers finally in hand, council held a special meeting to finalize the county budget.

"It's a stand pat budget, even after incorporating the new provincial responsibilities," said county warden Murray Fearrey.

Fearrey noted there will be a 1.7 per cent reduction in expenditures from last year. In order to keep the county levy from increasing, Fearrey explained that the room to manoeuvre, because of the change in education tax, was used at the county level.

"The assessment change may reflect an increase," Fearrey said. Actual value assessment will result in increased taxes to many Haliburton County ratepayers, especially those who own waterfront property.

The provincial government has lived up to its commitment to keep the changes in taxation responsibilities "revenue neutral" by injecting the nec-

(more on page 3)



One young member of the audience just couldn't resist the music as folk singer David Archibald entertained Friday evening during the Music by the Gull concert. The popular entertainer blended a mixture of adult and children's songs to the delight of the audience. The free concerts return August 7 featuring Brian Moore and his band.



With her foot on the treadle, Celeste Northcott of Haywood, California gets a hands-on lesson in spinning wool from Jean Farrell. The demonstration was one of many at the annual Quilt, Rug and Fibre Arts Show this past weekend at the Minden Arena. For more photos from the show, see page 21.

Bat Lake motor ban

by Jerry Grozelle

It took about seven years, but the majority of property owners around Bat Lake have finally got their way.

The council of Anson, Hindon and Minden has supported the Bat Lake Ratepayers' Association in its bid to have gas powered outboard motors banned from the lake.

The overwhelming majority of property owners around the lake favour such a ban. But not everybody supports it. Angelo Del Favero, who has owned property on Bat Lake for about five years, said he would agree

(more on page 3)

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It is time for everyone to roll up his or her sleeves and lie down. A blood donor clinic is scheduled for this July 28.

The clinic will be held at the Haliburton Legion Hall on Mountain Street, from 1:00 to 7:00 p.m. Donors between the ages of 17 and 60 are invited to give the gift of life. At this time of the year, blood supplies are low and donors are needed. Please give the gift of life.

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Nimigon*
457-2128 x 27**Tower Road \$38,000**

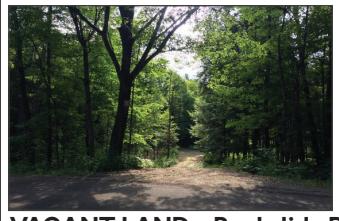
- Sir Sam's Area Building Lot.
- 2.3-acre lot is part of the "new frontier" of the community
- Build your quiet country getaway

Karen Nimigon*
457-6505**Industrial Park Rd \$1,350,000**

- 12,000 sq ft of mixed use industrial and commercial space
- Sitting on a private 6.75 acre lot in Haliburton
- Unlimited possibilities with this building!

Kirsten Rae*
286-2138 x 30**Fortescue Lake \$549,900**

- Well kept 3-bedroom cottage with Sunroom
- Extras include bunkie, boat house & water toys
- Fully equipped, call for more details!

Darlene Reil*
447-2055**VACANT LAND - Buckslide Rd.**

- 1.4 acres
- Cleared, driveway, dug well
- Toys included
- Offered for \$74,900

Christine Sharp
705-489-9968**Haliburton Lake \$894,900**

- 3-bedroom 2.5 bath modern lakefront home
- Spectacular view, deep water off the dock
- Renovated Boathouse, 2 double car garages

Greg Stamp*
457-2128 x 28**Overlooking Green Lk \$459,000**

- Bungalow w/ Granny Flat
- 2.3 Acres, 496' Rd Frontage
- Dock & Pergola Lakeside
- Commercial zoning for multiple uses

Melanie Vigrass*
286-2138 x 32**Ryan's Lane \$69,900**

- 27 acres of natural woods
- Great spot to build your private retreat
- Minutes from access to Elephant lake.

Lindsay
Wilkinson
286-2138 x 23**Kennisis Lake \$675,000**

- Four season, 3 bedroom cottage in a quiet bay
- 100' of sand shoreline and expansive lake views
- Extensive upgrades inside & out + a solid rental history!

Andrea Wilson*
457-2128 x 25

We are open for business! Our client's health remains our primary concern. Our REALTORS will be following certain protocols to ensure our clients safety. Contact us to learn more about our updated practices.

PROUDLY PART OF THE HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY!
CENTURY 21® Granite Realty Group Ltd. BROKERAGE

Haliburton 705-457-2128 | Minden 705-286-2138 | Carnarvon 705-489-9968 | Kennisis Lake 705-754-1932

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